



# Seeking 798's future



798 Art District used to be a hot destination for artists and fans. Today it has become a business platform, and the real artists are all but gone.

But community leaders say this may have been the development plan for the famous art zone all along.

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Australian Sam Voutas fulfilled his dream of directing a Chinese movie. The question is whether his work will be screenable in the country.



## Pages 20-21 Beijing's suburban parks

Fed up with downtown air pollution? Consider a trip to one of the city's outlying parks.

# Record revenues prompt criticism of holiday schedules

By Zhao Hongyi

The seven-day National Day holiday gave Chinese people a break from the office and stimulated domestic consumption, the Ministry of Commerce said.

But the one-week holiday brought voices appealing for the implementation of individual's annual holidays.

## Record consumption

The ministry said retailers and restaurants raked in 696.2 billion yuan nationwide during the holiday, a 17.5 percent increase since 2010.

The estimate does not include the estimated 300 billion yuan spent on tourism, or the 200 billion yuan spent on transportation as people took advantage of the long break to visit family.

Jewelry, clothing, home appliances, furniture and gold were the most purchased items during the holiday.

The price of gold fell throughout the week due to a drop in the world market, making it a hot item for amateur investors. Electronic products, such as the Apple iPad and iPhone, were also hot sellers during the holiday.

Home appliances sold under heavy promotions at shopping malls, since many families were eager to replace aging units. Many retailers offered extra discounts for buyers who were upgrading an older appliance.

In Beijing alone, shoppers



Tourist sites are crowded during the "Golden Week" holiday.

CFP Photo

spent 300 billion yuan.

In Shanghai, restaurants remained the top revenue generator, with families spending an estimated 15 billion yuan to eat out.

Total domestic consumption exceeded 8 trillion yuan, according to the ministry's statistics.

"It's a good sign that domestic consumption is strong," said Yao Jian, a spokesman for the ministry.

## Stimulating demand

Since 2000, the Chinese government has been expanding the number of national holidays.

At first, workers were given two "Golden Weeks," one of which coincided with the May 1 International Workers' Day and the other with National Day on October 1. An additional seven-day holiday followed the moving target of Spring Festival.

Three years ago, due to population pressure at vacation destinations, the government collapsed the May 1 holiday to three days and implemented new three-day holidays for Tomb Sweeping Day, the Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival.

But many have criticized

the government for loading so many vacation days into February and October and placing a serious strain on national transportation, tourism sites, restaurants and malls.

"Each Spring Festival, the transportation network has to carry billions of people from the cities to their ancestral homes in the countryside," Beijing Evening News said. "Transportation was no less chaotic before the October 1 National Day holiday this year."

"I went to Tongli in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province," Zhou Tong, a Beijing office worker, told China National Radio in an

interview on the last day of the holiday. "The only thing I saw was a sea of black hair because of all the tourists."

"The way to solve this problem is to force companies to implement the legally required personal annual holidays to spread out tourist traffic," the Beijing Evening News said in an op-ed.

## Laws widely ignored

National law guarantees workers the right to a personal annual break in addition to the national holidays. Workers who do not take an annual leave are to be paid three times as much for their time.

But in reality, only those working for the government and its state-owned enterprises ever receive annual paid holidays or their required legal compensation.

"We need to force employers to respect the national labor laws," the comment said. "This has to happen to ensure the massive population of workers receive their due benefits."

"It makes sense to fully use the existing holidays before demanding even more," said Zhou Kereng, a professor of sociology at Peking University.

"Employers, no matter private or public, should respect the legal rights of their workers," he said. Those unwilling to allow their employees their right to time off must be willing to pay the necessary compensation, he said.

# Student-run chicken stand runs afoul of KFC

By Zhao Hongyi

Chinese university students are learning from their peers in Europe and the US and trying to earn money to support their campus life instead of relying on their parents.

During the National Day vacation, a group of students opened a fried chicken store at Beijing City University, a school on the city's north side. The store sold fried chicken, hamburgers, French fries and soft drinks.

"We hoped the small store could cover our campus expenses," said Zhu Baolai, founder of the shop and a third-year student at the school. "We didn't expect it would cause so much trouble."

Zhu began planning the store two years with his girlfriend You You. They hired two classmates to help with staffing the store between class time and homework.



Zhu Baolai posing for media in front of his store.

CFP Photo

After several nights of work, he settled on the name "OFC": Obama Fried Chicken. The store banner he designed mimicked the famous KFC logo, swapping Obama's image for Colonel Sanders.

Even before it opened, local media reported on the new store. Those early reports drew the attention of the Kentucky Fried Chicken Beijing Office, which threatened to

sue Zhu for infringing on its intellectual property.

While Zhu was thrilled with the exposure, his partners were worried about the possibility of a lawsuit. They decided to redesign the banner and renamed their store Obama UFO.

While the threat of a lawsuit vanished, students had a lot to say about the new store.

"I worry that the US President may feel uncomfortable

about this - especially if he loses the presidency next year," a student said.

Zhu and his partners have received hundreds of customers each day since opening on October 8.

"Our equipment is very simple," Zhu said. "We still have to install an exhaust pipe over the fryer." He said they will improve the facilities after the store earns some money.

Zhu said the store is only an experiment to try to find a way to earn money. "I wouldn't even call it a serious start-up," Zhu said.

They plan to pass the reins to underclassmen after they graduate.

"We are just hoping to build some confidence with our experience at Obama UFO," Zhu said. "We all hope to do something greater in the future."

While many observers have praised Zhu and his friends for

their initiative, market observers cautioned copying big businesses' logos and models.

"A simple copy, or 'shan-zhai' version of a restaurant or banner, will never grow into a big business. It's just a source of trouble," said Li Zhiqi, a commentator writing for *China Economy*.

Li said that even if the students aren't taking their new business seriously, creativity is important - especially for young people who are preparing to enter the workforce.

Recent reports say Zhu and his friends closed the small store on Wednesday.

"We have received more media interviews than customers," Zhu told *The Mirror*, an evening newspaper in Beijing.

A new public bath house has opened to replace the store. "The bathroom is not ours," he said, "we have other plans."



# Social security system begins covering foreigners

By Zhao Hongyi

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security is requiring all employers to purchase social welfare insurance for their foreign employees starting October 15.

The purchase of insurance is required under the Rules of Social Security Insurance of Foreigners Working in China, the ministry said.

All enterprises, institutes and government bodies registered in the country will be required to pay 11 percent of the value of their foreign employees' salaries into the purchase of insurance products.

China's social insurance consists of five products: pension, health care, personal injury, unemployment and maternity.

Employers who do not purchase insurance products for their foreign employees will be punished, the ministry said.

Under the new system, legal foreign workers will be given equal access to medicare reimbursement, unemployment subsidies and training, injury compensation, maternity leave and pensions.

The notice states that employers must purchase these social insurance products for their foreign employees together with their Chinese colleagues.

Accounts will remain open



More than 600,000 foreigners are working in China, according to the statistics from the Ministry of Public Security

CFP Photo

even if a foreigner departs from the country.

Foreigners can apply to terminate their accounts and withdraw the money. Those who die before the age of 60 for males or 55 for females can pass on their accounts to their children.

China has signed bilateral agreements with Germany, Russia and South Korea to avoid forcing nationals of those countries to pay their social security dues twice. Social security records will be transferred

between those countries.

"China will continue to sign such bilateral agreements with foreign countries," said Lu Xiao, an officer at the Beijing Bureau of Human Resources and Social Security.

"The key point here is that foreigners working in Chinese enterprises and institutes can enjoy the same social welfare as their Chinese colleagues," he said.

Foreigners who will lose their residence once unemployed can apply for new jobs

in the country or register their own companies to continue paying into the country's social security. Failing that, they can terminate their accounts and take their money out, Lu said.

There are more than 600,000 foreigners working and living in China, according to the Ministry of Public Security. While many purchase social security insurance products back home, some have no social security anywhere.

"We did not know whether or not to purchase social secu-

ity insurance for the foreigners working in our center," said Lin Yan, human resource manager at New Oriental Education Group, the city's leading English training center. The group employs dozens of foreign teachers to teach courses in English, Japanese, Korean, French and Spanish.

"It was unclear because the authorities did not publish any guidelines," Lin complained. Some of the employees told her they were paying for social security insurance back home; others said they did not care because they were young.

"Now the policy is clear," Lin said. She said her group will buy the social security insurance for their foreign employees soon.

"But there are questions that remain unsolved," China Insurance Daily said.

Ordinarily, social welfare to Chinese nationals are tax exempt. Lu said foreigners should also receive their payments tax-free.

The other question is whether a foreigner's social security account can be inherited by a foreign heir. It is unknown whether heirs will be able to withdraw all the money or transfer it to a social security account in their home country.

"These questions are minor details and can be solved easily later on," Lu said.

## Report focuses on migrant population

By Zhao Hongyi

One hundred million people will be moving from the countryside to the city during this decade, pushing the nation's urban population above 800 million, according to a new report.

Issued by the National Population and Family Planning Commission on October 10, the annual forecast titled "China's Migrant Population 2011" estimates the current urban migrant population at 220 million.

The commission is in charge of the country's family planning initiative and efforts to control the mobility of its 1.34 billion people.

By 2020, many of the 800 million urban residents will be migrants or the children of migrants, one of society's most vulnerable due to their lack of access to social security, pensions and health care.

Children of current migrant workers rarely return to the countryside, preferring to remain in the city, the report says.

The Beijing-Tianjin Bohai Circle, Shanghai-based Yangtze River Delta and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen Pearl River Delta will remain the main industrial centers, absorbing 40 million of the 100 million new migrants.

Eighteen newly industrial belts, such as the Harbin-Changchun belt in the northeast and the southeast Fujian area, will help absorb the remaining workers.

The report said the growth of second-tier cities is expected to speed up urbanization.

But only 5 percent of the 100 million migrant workers' children who are willing to stay in the cities will have the chance to receive higher education, the report warns. This will be a

challenge for city planners.

The most urgent task is to improve the higher education system to provide training and education opportunities to vulnerable migrants.

The report listed a number of other population-related problems, including a lack of sufficient medical services in the small cities, a lack of access to social security, rising housing costs that are contributing to generational poverty and that towns and small cities continue to have limited education and work opportunities.

"Unlike urbanization in Europe and other parts of Asia, China's migrants can hardly integrate into their new urban surroundings," said Zhai Yaowu, president and professor of the Institute of Society and Population of Renmin University of China.

"They might become a part of the urban popula-



A migrant father and his son arrive at Beijing Railway Station to pursue a better life. However, such families find it difficult, if not impossible, to integrate into urban life.

CFP Photo

tion in dress and speech, but barriers to education, social security, work and residence will prohibit them from further integration."

The professor said it may take generations before the rural population integrates into the city.

The authorities are helping migrants and their children integrate into city life.

As of 2011, the social security system is allowing migrant workers to purchase social security insurance in different cities. Migrants who contribute to the pension system for at least 15 years will be able to access it after retirement.

"China has seen rapid development of its higher education system over the past decade," the professor said. "These days, most students can receive higher education as long as they are willing."

# Record giant gives up the business

By Zhang Dongya

Who buys CDs when digital music is only a click away?

This question has challenged the music industry for many years. Now the effects of digital downloading are taking their toll on a number of domestic record labels.



Song Ke

## Spirit of pessimism

Song Ke is the CEO of Taihe Rye Music, often cited as the largest pop label on the mainland.

But he may not be for much longer.

Taihe Rye Music recently announced that it will no longer sign new singers to its label or renew contracts with existing singers, including pop star Li Yuchun.

Song said the world no longer has a need for record companies, because the entire foundation of their business has been ebbed away by the flow of technology.

Before founding Taihe Rye in 2004, Song was the music director of Warner Bros. China. During his years with Taihe Rye, the company signed several pop singers including Pu Shu, Lao Lang and Sha Baoliang, whose career saw its best years under the label.

When Li Yuchun became the champion of the first *Super Girl* TV show in 2005, she signed with Taihe Rye. Li went on to become one of the most popular singers on the mainland, and the source of 20 percent of Taihe Rye's revenue. Her concerts continue to sell more than 10,000 tickets in the first three hours.

But concerts alone cannot carry a label.

Taihe Rye did not renew its contract with Li when it was expired in the end of 2010. This year, Li signed with EE-Media, a pioneer media group founded in 2004 and the owner of the *Super Girl* and *Super Boy* brands.

EE-Media established a studio for Li Yuchun earlier this year.

## Profitable no more

When Song went abroad in 1990, the Chinese record industry did not exist: by the time he returned in 1996, it was huge.

Popsingers from Taiwan and Hong Kong had legions of fans on the mainland, but the mainland became the home base of rock and folk music.

Gao Xiaosong, one of the most popular folk singers in China – a classmate at Tsinghua University – had become a well-known producer and songwriter.



Although she has left the label, pop singer Li Yuchun's poster remains in the hallway at Taihe Rye Music Company.

CFP Photos



Few fans still visit CD shops to purchase albums.

When Song heard Gao was too short on money to finish his album *No Regrets for My Youth* in 1996, he invested more than 200,000 yuan. The album went into its second printing in 2002, and is widely regarded as a 1990s classic. Initial sales generated profits of 500,000 yuan, and it continues to sell well today.

"In the past, record companies were the ones who provided singers with professional recording studios and marketing opportunities," Song said. "Now the threshold for music production and promotion has been slashed."

There are many modern software packages singers can use to replace expensive record studio hardware in their homes, and Weibo and other social media platforms have given singers new venues to promote their work.

High production costs are another reason record labels are hesitant to acquire new acts: for a record label, a new album costs at least 1 million yuan to produce.

## Fate in haze

Taihe Rye Music signed 20 singers and bands during the past seven years. While new contracts are out of the question, Song said the studio will continue to provide recording services to current acts, including MIC, which signed on to the label last October.

Song said the record company's future is as a copyright management agency, which will purchase the rights to records and provide marketing services.

"In the future, no recording companies will sign professional artists. Individual singers will establish their own studios – that's the direction things are

going," he said.

Zhang Liangying, who also found fame on *Super Girl*, has been managing her own studio for three years.

Other recording companies such as Ocean Butterfly and Universal Music said that in spite of the record industry's decline, they will not follow Taihe Rye.

On Wednesday, Huayi Brothers signed Belgian musician Jean-Francois Maljean in Beijing. The spokesman Yuan Tao said they wanted to show that Huayi Brothers remain confident about the future of the music industry.

"We want to prove to all music lovers that records will never die," he said. Many interpreted that announcement as a response to Taihe Rye's pessimism.

Sony Music said the record market is tough now, but that it is exploring new ways to stay profitable.

"We would not limit ourselves to just producing albums for an artist. We are arranging movie appearances, concerts, TV shows and other entertainment to give our singers access to more comprehensive services," said Patricia Sun, associate director of public affairs of Sony Music Entertainment (China).

"International music companies want to attract more local artists in China, but copyright protection is a big obstacle. Even with increased supervision of Internet piracy, the country has been slow to punish pirates in accordance with international law," she said.

"Without a healthy profit model, recording companies in China are in for a tough time – especially the domestic ones."

In order to squeeze out more money, a number of companies have turned to releasing more costly deluxe editions of new albums that appeal to hardcore music fans. Veteran songwriter Chen Xiaqi's deluxe edition albums cost 688 yuan, while albums by the independent musician Zuoxiao Zuzhou cost between 150 and 500 yuan.

Music critics have said China has completely lost its audience of CD buyers, with only a few fans, students and motorists still purchasing music on physical media.

While people continue to pay for TV series and films, music has become something that most people see as "free."

"Even if the music industry can make a little money, digital downloads have siphoned off the bulk of our profits," Song said.



# China remembers Steve Jobs

As millions of netizens flooded the microblog Sina Weibo over the past week to show their condolences for the late tech icon Steve Jobs, they raised another question: why does China not have a Steve Jobs?

Apple's gadgets may be relatively new to China, but the news of its founder Steve Jobs' death on October 6 served as a reminder of how quickly they captured people's attention.

In Beijing, people – fans or not – flocked to the Apple Store.

Outside of the Sanlitun store, Jobs' fans paid homage to him by placing white flowers at the entrance, reported the *Wall Street Journal*.

Duan Lian, 37 years old, was one of the first mourners to arrive at the store. He took a 40-minute cab ride across the city to pay respect to Jobs. Duan, a computer programmer, said Jobs is one of his greatest heroes.

"We all knew this day was coming, but I had no idea it would be so sudden," he said.

The commemoration also made many wonder why Chinese companies are better at knocking off the originals than coming up with innovative ideas, the *Journal* said.

(Agencies)



A man places an iPad displaying a picture of Steve Jobs as a tribute to the tech icon in Beijing.

Xinhua Photo

## The third eye What does Jobs' death mean to China

By Huang Daohen

When Sun Zhenyuan, a junior at Beijing Normal University, first learned of Steve Jobs' death, he thought it was a prank.

"I logged onto my Weibo account as usual and a friend told me that Jobs had died," Sun said. "I could not help thinking, 'Why would someone make a prank like that?'"

But it was true: the long-ailing Jobs had suffered respiratory arrest caused by a pancreatic tumor. When news of his death hit China at around 8 am last week, many were dumbstruck. Some of Sun's classmates took it so hard that they decided to skip classes.

As of press time, more than 88 million people have posted comments on Sina Weibo's tribute page for Jobs.

"It feels like when Michael Jackson died,"

Sun said.

Sun, majoring in computer science, is a faithful Apple fan. He has a Mac Air because he has been told since he was young that creative people work with Apple gadgets. Last year, he bought an iPhone4 and iPad2.

But Sun didn't do it just to look cool: his plan is to make Apple Apps for a living.

Sun said his enthusiasm for Apple won't lessen as a result of Jobs' passing. The company created a huge team and isn't managed by Jobs alone, he said.

"I don't think Apple will change much after losing its visionary," Sun said. "If anything, the death will boost the sales of its latest product, the iPhone4S."

Wen Yijun, market analyst with Oriental Securities, agreed. Chinese companies need

both innovation and quality to create a strong brand like Apple, he said.

Wen said Chinese people don't lack the innovative spirit, as the country ranked fourth in terms of total patents. "The problem is that people don't have faith in domestic high-tech products," he said. In most cases, people may hesitate to buy a domestic product because they are worried about the quality.

Previously, domestic enterprises strived to make quick success, but ignored to build a quality reputation, Wen said. "Now, what we need to do is not to just develop a talent like Jobs, but more urgently, to enhance quality awareness across society."

Only when domestic products become a symbol of superior quality can we come up with our own Apple, he said.

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# More than a vacation

## Start-ups aim to try ideas in the market

By Huang Daohen

Ask any young entrepreneur why he or she wants to start a business and most will admit the ability to schedule your own holidays is a major draw. But when taking the plunge into business ownership, time off should be the last thing on one's mind, experts warn.

China's entrepreneurs are facing a tough time, as venture capital and business licenses become increasingly difficult to acquire. For many, it's family pressure that prevents them from realizing their dreams of starting a business.



The Zhongguancun Chuangye Tower is home to many IT start-ups.

Zhang Yong/CFP Photo

### Nervous but excited

At a crowded cafe in Zhongguancun on Wednesday afternoon, Tom Lee works furiously at his laptop.

But the 28-year-old is doing something few of his friends dare to attempt: he is working for himself.

Lee, a former software engineer at Oak Pacific, the owners of Renren and mop.com, founded his game development and Web design firm Jindouyun two years ago.

"Most of our clients are also young start-ups," Lee says. Business is not bad, and occasionally his company does work for companies in the US and Europe.

But that doesn't mean he has a stable income. Li said his wife, an office worker at a local law firm, contributes more than him to paying their 5,000-yuan mortgage payments.

"Sometimes I feel a little bitter about this," Lee said. Currently, his company is working on an online game contract that will net them 100,000 yuan.

"It's very exciting, but it makes me nervous," he says.

Lee's partner Zhao Dong doesn't feel the tension. Zhao, a law student at Renmin University of China, is enthusiastic about computers and programming. When Lee began looking for partners to join him in his start-up, Lee enthusiastically took some time off from his studies.

But the transition from student to boss has been difficult for the 22-year-old.

"I always knew starting a business would be hard, but it's been even harder than I imagined," Zhao says.

That may be why only 0.2 percent of the nation's 6.6 million college graduates pursue entrepreneurship.

The Ministry of Education said

there will be more than 6 million students entering the market this year, with 500,000 from last year still seeking work.

### Upcoming boom

Experts forecast that widespread unemployment will kick off a boom in start-ups.

Lee's Jindouyun serves as a snapshot of what is taking place in the capital's IT field, says Zhao Xiao, an economist at University of Science and Technology Beijing.

Growing Internet use gives many new Internet start-ups a great chance for success, he says.

China has more Internet users than any country in the world, with about 457 million people as of the end of 2010 – more than the total population of the US.

This makes the country a major IT market, Zhao says.

Many of global IT giants are opening headquarters in the city, including top brands such as Microsoft and IBM, along with domestic giants such as Baidu and Sina.

Statistics from January and February of this year show that the IT design and development sector reaped about 7.3 billion yuan (\$1.1 billion) in revenue, an annual growth of 25 percent.

Jindouyun's revenue last year reached nearly 300,000 yuan, and it expects it to double this year.

Former head of Google China Kaifu Lee is optimistic about the trend. In 2009, Lee launched the business incubator Innovation Works, which now backs 30 young IT start-ups.

### Not a safe thing

But Zhao said self-employment is not always safe. When a graduate

is given the choice between joining Microsoft or founding a start-up, most choose Microsoft.

Jindouyun's Lee is committing what is akin to a cultural taboo. In Sichuan Province, where Lee was born, stability is paramount.

"My parents want me to take a stable and well-paying job, but that is not what I want," Lee says. "With a start-up, you can do what you want."

Zhao said the attitudes of young people are changing. "In the past, starting a business was more about taking care of the family. Now more young people are wanting to test their ideas in the market," he says.

But Lee's trouble is far from over. While the rise of mobile software and social networking is good for business, weak intellectual property protection has made it easy for rivals to latch onto another start-up's idea.

"If no one copies you, then there must be something wrong with your model," Lee says.

Another challenge facing Jindouyun is venture capital. Lee said despite the government's preferential policies to encourage banks to offer small loans to student start-ups, there are complicated application procedures.

With the current inflation hike, banks have been cautious about lending to big enterprises – small businesses have virtually no hope, Lee says.

Lee and Zhao initially invested 1 million yuan in Jindouyun, most of which was contributed by friends and relatives.

"Who would lend you such an amount of money besides your own family and friends?" Lee says. His office in Sitong Mansion overlooks the Zhongguancun square and costs 100,000 yuan in rent per year.

### Editor's note

## Start a business because you are young?

Many college students want to create a start-up while they are still young. It feels cool to be your own boss and do whatever you want, and if you fail there is still time to start a new career.

This view is reflected in a recent poll by ifeng.com, which found that more than 80 percent of respondents agreed that age is the biggest advantage in starting a business straight out of college.

But Mo Xiaojun, a career trainer who has been advising entrepreneurs for more than a decade, disagreed.

Youth can mean inexperience, and running a business requires a multitude of skills, including communication, marketing and leadership, Mo says.

While young people may come up with novel ideas, realizing them is another story. "Young start-ups need to devote more attention to collecting and analyzing data," he says. "The most important rule of business is to make money. It's not just about how good your idea is."

"It is not wise for graduates to start their own business simply because they can't find jobs," Mo says.



# Wal-Mart under fire

By Huang Daohen

US retail giant Wal-Mart has gotten into trouble in Chongqing by selling ordinary pork labeled as higher-quality organic meat.

The scandal, known as the "green pork" incident, has led to Wal-Mart's temporarily closure in Chongqing and a fine of 2.7 million yuan.

An investigation by local police show that from January to August of this year, the stores have sold more than 63,000 kilograms of ordinary pork labeled organic, which can be 10 yuan higher per kilogram, Xinhua reported.

Wal-Mart apologized to consumers in a statement and promised to double the compensation for the consumers. But it didn't explain how things happened.

Local media reported that Chongqing police detained some of Wal-Mart's employees over the incident, and said it would fine the company at a maximum amount because it has broken the law several times before.

But while the country is still reporting constant food problems with mislabeling, expired and counterfeit products, many believe the punishment for Wal-Mart is too severe.

There are a flood of other product safety incidents out there worthy of investigation, and the "green pork" incident, in this case, is relatively innocuous, one netizen said wrote on his Weibo.

The *New York Times* wrote that the move might serve as a warning for the country's foreign investment community that Wal-Mart is being singled out as a foreign business.

Others believe that while violations are common in smaller domestic stores, violations by big foreign brands naturally draw more attention.

Currently, Wal-Mart has 10 stores in Chongqing and 284 outlets across the country.



Zhang Chunhua/IC Photo

## Comment

### Shop elsewhere

*I once worked in a Wal-Mart meat department in Shanghai. They used to change the chemical formulation of fresh meats frequently, which would change the length of their shelf life. I would shop with extreme caution when venturing into the Wal-Mart meat section. If you say you hate Wal-Mart, then don't shop there. You have a choice.*

—Sindy Wu,

schoolteacher in Shanghai

### Not all are trash

*Before you go screaming about capitalism and how companies are in business to make a profit, I'll remind you that there are plenty of profitable companies out there with respectable business practices.*

*The fact that Wal-Mart was called out in this case doesn't mean all for-*

*eign companies are trash.*

—Chen Jun,

editor at Xinhua News Agency

### Happens in the US

*These incidents also happen in the US. I remembered going to a Wal-Mart in New York once and buying what was labeled roast beef from the deli department. When I got home I found it was some sort of processed loaf meat, not roast beef. But it sure looks like roast beef until you take a closer look.*

—Jeff Bass, visiting US scholar

### Not all Wal-Mart's fault

*What is missing here is discussion about China's problem with inflation — mostly due to food prices. Given that situation, it's a game of "whom do you trust?" When everyone in the food chain has motivation to lie in order to profit, little remains sacred. In this*

*case, it is doubtful that Wal-Mart is solely to blame. Store managers, staff and suppliers make are also on the list of suspects.*

*The government has been working hard to improve the country's food security, but it still has a long way to go. The system in place in the US is about 100 years old, but it's far from perfect.*

—Erin Chow, business consultant

### Stricter law on food

*I did a Google search of "US mislabeled organic fines" and found that the maximum fine, which is considered high, is \$10,000. It seems the Chinese government takes its food quality and fraudulent product labeling much more seriously than we do. That will be good news for Chinese people.*

—Gary Minter, university professor of English

## Debate of the week

### Li Na still a winner

Netizens have slammed tennis star Li Na, accusing the French Open champion of taking herself too seriously and not working hard enough after she suffered a humiliating defeat in front of home fans.

Li was defeated 6-4, 6-0 on October 2 in the first round of the China Open.

"She became a champion, and then she was flooded with advertising deals and hundreds of millions in income, so where is the time to train?" one netizen said.

Global brands such as Mercedes-Benz, Rolex, Haagen-Dazs and Nike, have signed Li to be the face of their goods in the country.

"I've just lost all confidence now," Li said after the tournament. "I don't know what I can do. Even winning one point is tough for me."

But Li's setbacks, including those earlier this year — early exits from Wimbledon and the US Open — didn't detract from her market power because big Chinese sports

stars are hard to come by. Unlike in the US, home of Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant and Tom Brady, China's homegrown professional sports haven't flourished enough to gain much global attention.

Basketball legend Yao Ming gained international fame by joining the NBA's Houston Rockets, but his retirement from basketball earlier this year left a huge void in Chinese sports personalities that Li is trying to fill.

### Should gov't sponsor celebrity weddings?

Shangri-La witnessed the celebrity wedding of the year recently when Xie Na, a TV host, and Zhang Jie, a pop singer, held a grand wedding ceremony — with the government footing the bill.

The state administration in Yunnan Province stumped up the 30 million yuan needed to cover the wedding costs, local media reported, prompting outrage among those who felt the money could be better

spent in the impoverished region.

The government paid for everything from the wedding photos to the banquet, on the condition that Xie, 29, and her husband became tourism ambassadors for Shangri-la.

Netizens pointed out that the money lavished on the pair could build scores of new schools, or train thousands of teachers.

"This is a province where students don't have meat with their meals, but [it] gave 30 million to a wedding for a couple of entertainers — the tragedy of a country, the sadness of its people," said one commentator on Sina Weibo.

"So this is how stars spend their money," pondered another, named Vage1931. "I wonder how much they spend on real philanthropy."

Others, however, were suitably gushing. "When I watched, I was so moved, especially when Xie thanked her husband for loving her when she needed it most," wrote one of Xie's 9.8 million followers on Sina Weibo. (Agencies)



### This is how 30 yuan was saved

Nimble Ma Jie astonished tourists when she scrambled 20 meters up a virtually sheer castle wall in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, just to dodge the 30 yuan admission fee.

Ma — who had no rope or safety equipment — told fellow visitors she'd grown up in Nanjing climbing the walls of Zhonghua Castle since childhood and never once paid to get in.

# A childhood dream realized

By Wei Xi

How difficult is it for a foreign director to shoot a film based in China for an international audience? One man found the answer.



Sam Voutas and his crew in film shooting

Shunzi, a Beijinger, is dumped by his wife shortly after he gets fired by his taxi company. Trying to prove he's not a failure and eager to make money to buy a car of his own, Shunzi opens a hutong sex shop.

To his surprise, the neighborhood residents, prudes who used to sneer at his shop during the day, all rush to the shop at night. It becomes a neighborhood hangout.

But Shunzi's father strongly opposes, thinking the shop will cost the family face. Because Shunzi forgets to apply for a business license, all his goods get seized by the neighborhood committee.

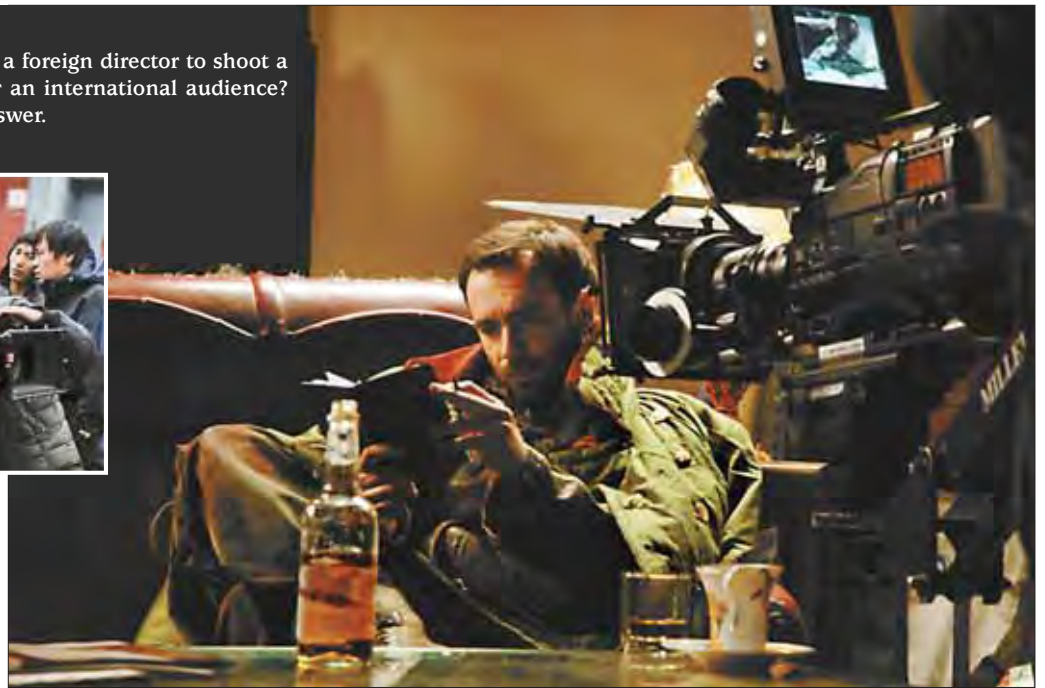
After several ups and downs, Shunzi finally makes his fortune through his mother's secret recipe for an aphrodisiac handed down by her ancestors.

This is the story of *Red Light Revolution*, Sam Voutas' most recent film.

Although it still hasn't been screened at public cinemas in China, the film was well received by both local and foreign audiences after screenings at some independent theaters.

Interestingly, Voutas discovered that people from different places laughed at different parts in the film. Also, the viewers in China tended to be in their 20s and early 30s, while American viewers were older, up to 60.

Voutas, an Australian director and actor, said he came up with the idea for a script about a sex shop when he was living near Dongsishitiao. "In 2006, there was only one sex shop in my neighborhood, but within a year many more opened," Voutas said. "I found there were few customers during the day-



Director Sam Voutas

Photos provided by Sam Voutas



Shunzi and his co-shoprunner studying a blow-up doll in the film *Red Light Revolution*



Shunzi in front of his sex shop in *Red Light Revolution*

time, so I wondered how they could survive if they did not have customers."

In the same year, Voutas went to the annual China Adult-Care Expo in Shanghai, where he had a chance to talk with producers in the sex shop industry.

Voutas isn't overly concerned about factual accuracy. For him, he just wants to inject some humor in a topic that may still be some-

what taboo: sex.

"It's a film shot in China, but the same story could be set in any country," he said. "When international audiences watch the film, they can easily connect with the heroes or heroines."

Voutas focuses on directing China-based films for the international market. Born in a family with great interest in China, Voutas lived in Manila and Taipei before moving to

Beijing. He has a deep understanding of Chinese culture and is able to win locals' trust because of it.

"I feel comfortable working here and working with the Chinese," he said.

As a child, Voutas was a daydreamer who liked to recruit his peers for role play.

"I often dreamed that I was a secret spy while shuttling among the rocks in Ritan Park," said Voutas, who believes acting and filmmaking are just adult version of childhood role-playing games. After six years in Beijing, he returned to Australia in 1997 to study film and theater.

Voutas returned to China six years ago when he found China has many TV stations and film companies that were giving work.

He began to act for different programs, such as the film channel CCTV-6. He also appeared in *Nanjing! Nanjing!*, a film based on the Nanjing Massacre.

But it's making films that is his passion.

In the last few years, Voutas directed two documentaries and several films, such as *Shanghai Bride*, *Dragon's Sons*, *Phoenix' Daughters* and *Crash Test*.

Few of Voutas' films have been screened on TV in China or in theaters, but they've all been warmly received abroad. Voutas has received various awards as well, such as the 2004 Festival of Fantastic Films in the UK, and this

year's People's Choice Award in the International Film Festival in Singapore.

"Of course, I would like to let Chinese audiences watch my films," Voutas said. "It is just like a painter wants his paintings to be seen by as many people as possible."

Driven by this goal, Voutas and Melanie Ansley, producer of *Red Light Revolution*, are now working with Chinese companies to get the film released, first on the Internet during the next Spring Festival.

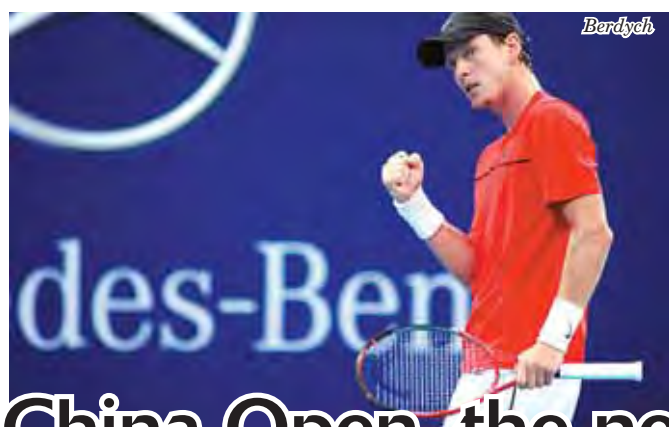
"The biggest challenge is that nowadays there are so many films coming out every year that you have to make something to make audience choose your film," he said.

As for the Chinese market, Voutas thinks China lacks a film rating system, which prevents many good films from being released.

"Some violent films can also be artistic, but if a film wants to come to the Chinese market, it has to be mild and acceptable for all ages," he said. "This 'acceptable' type of film content limits the number of good films coming in."

Compared with local directors who shoot similar thematic films, Voutas said he has both advantages and disadvantages. "As an expat who has lived in China for years, I am able to view an issue from two different aspects, but local directors have deeper understandings of Chinese culture," he said.





Berdych



Radwanska

# China Open, the next grand slam?

By Huang Daohen

On Sunday, the second annual China Open tennis tournament concluded at the National Tennis Center's main court, with two riveting matches that both went to the maximum number of sets.

Third seed Czech Tomas Berdych fought back to defeat Croatian Marin Cilic 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 at the men's final, ending his long title drought. On the women's side, Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska claimed her third title of the year after beating ninth seed Andrea Petkovic 7-5, 0-6 and 6-4.

"This is my biggest title," Radwanska said. "It's always

hard to come back, especially when you lose the [second] set 0-6."

The National Tennis Center was built in 2008 for the Olympics, and it boasts a center court – called Zhuan-shi (Diamond) Court – that seats up to 13,000 people and has a retractable roof.

With the success of the latest China Open, organizers are speculating that the event might become a fifth grand slam on the annual tennis calendar.

Stacey Allaster, WTA's chief executive officer, agreed. "Certainly the facilities here are incredible, and when I first came into the building I just



Li Na's early exit disappointed many home fans. CFP Photos

said to myself, 'Wow, this is a world-class tennis stadium.'"

Allaster said women's tennis was on full display at

China Open, which is considered one of WTA's four new crown jewel events.

Li Na, China's first Grand Slam champion, participated this year, as did the top-ranked men's and women's players in the world, Novak Djokovic and Caroline Wozniacki.

Other top players included Maria Sharapova, Andy Roddick, Robin Soderling and Juan Carlos Ferrero.

There are some roadblocks for China Open becoming a bigger event, said Zhang Yabin, tournament president.

Zhang said the sports market in China is not yet

mature, so it's hard to turn a profit. Currently, ticket sales and sponsorship are the main revenue streams for the event. But most domestic enterprises, large and small, are still unfamiliar with the sports industry and unaware of its influence on the people.

Reuters reported that the tennis market in China is estimated at \$4 billion annually.

Zhang said consumers are also not mature enough. After five-seed Li Na crashed out in the first round, fans showed little interest in the matches of the other players.

The nine-day event attracted a paltry 300,000 people, with no sell-outs.

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# Architects gather for factory transformation

By Zhang Dongya

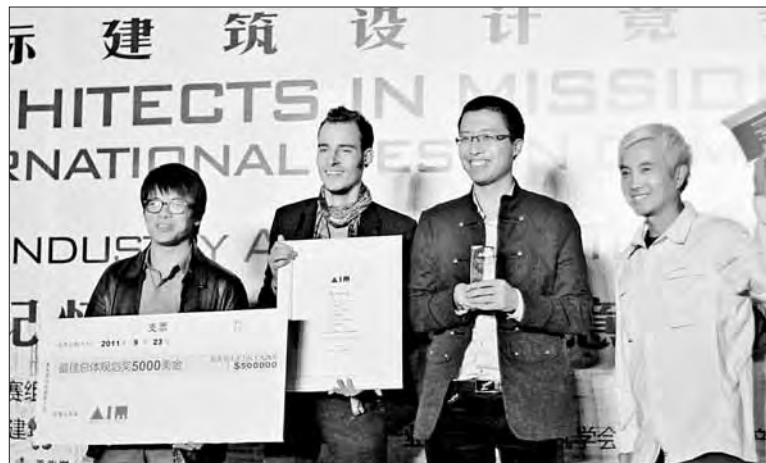
Five different projects from the Netherlands, Norway and China won top prizes at the second Architects in Mission (AIM) international competition at the end of September at Ertong, a factory that began as a pilot program under the major state-owned steel enterprise Shougang Group.

Held by ZNA, a Boston-based architecture and urban design firm, the competition aimed to collect ideas for the transformation and development of the factory.

Under the theme of "green transformation" and with multidisciplinary layers of architecture, landscape and urban design involved, this year's AIM competition handed out five awards, including Best Planning, Best Architecture Design and Best Exterior Space Design.

The Best Planning Award went to a trio from Tsinghua University, which was made up of three students from different countries: Martijn de Geus from the Netherlands, Tan Guang Ruy from Malaysia and Lian Xiaogang from China. Tan said their different backgrounds helped them open their minds and exchange ideas about architecture.

The winner of Best Sustainable Design was Li Zhonghui's project "Vertical Park – the city's green chimney." Li, from the China Academy



The Tsinghua University team won the Best Planning Award.

Photo provided by ZNA

of Art, used the chimney – a symbol of industry – as a way of undergoing "green transformation."

"It's a genius solution to transforming the pollution of the city, and it helps move forward the new technology," said judge Thomas Schroepfer.

The Best Exterior Space Design Award winner was Jin Longqiang from the Oslo School of Architecture and Design in Norway. He said future buildings will not always be high-rises, so interactive and dynamic architecture is necessary.

At the award ceremony, six works were selected for comment. The judging panel consisted of Chen Shijie, assistant general manager

of Shougang Group, Ihan Zeybekoglu, president of ZNA headquarters, Schroepfer, professor of the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and Phil Collieran, principal of Carol R. Johnson Associates (CRJA).

Wang Xu, director of the AIM committee, said that compared to last year's inaugural competition, participants this year were given a harder challenge.

"The factory covers a huge area. If mishandled, the project will fail. On the other hand, since it is situated at the western end of Chang'an Avenue, near Third Ring Road, special consideration is necessary to show how it relates with the environment," he said.

Ertong, located in Fengtai District, is an 83-hectare plot with some 300,000 square meters of building space. It has been dormant since 1997, but still has its old machinery and locomotives, which will be preserved during the transformation.

The old factory is being renovated as an animation and game industry center, with construction beginning in June.

This year's competition collected more than 300 works from 500 young architects and urban designers in 10 countries and regions around the world.

"It will certainly inspire the future transformation of the old factory. Some good ideas will be put into consideration," Chen said.

## Event

### Hike on the border of Beijing and Hebei

To avoid crowds, go with Beijing Hikers to the border of Hebei Province and stroll around Songshan National Park. On this trip, you will climb one of the peaks of Big Haituo Mountain, the second highest spot in Beijing. Reserve your place on the bus in advance. For detailed information and photos, check out [beijingshikers.com](http://beijingshikers.com).

Where: Songshan National Park, Yanqing District

When: Saturday  
Tel: 6432 2786

Cost: 350 yuan (315 yuan for members). Includes transportation, guides, water, snacks and drinks after the hike.

### The 101 on leaving China with pets

Pet owners often come across problems when preparing to leave the country. If you own a pet, it's never too early to start thinking about what to do about taking pets out of the country. This Saturday, the International Center for Veterinary Services invites experts to share their experiences, and participants will gain valuable insight on the necessary procedures, including vaccination requirements.

Where: International Center for Veterinary Services, Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Road, Anjialou, Chaoyang District

When: October 15, 11 am – noon

Tel: 8456 1939  
Cost: free (By Wei Xi)

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# Adventure excursions for those who dare

By Wei Xi

If the spirit of adventure is with you, there are plenty of places around Beijing where you can satisfy your craving for the daring and dangerous.

A 24-year-old Swedish man who goes by Anders asked *Beijing Today* where he could go bungee jumping. "I've always wanted to, so I thought, why not take the chance while I can?"

And that got us thinking: where are some other places around town for a dip on the wild side?

## Shidu

Shidu Village in Fangshan District is most known for its bungee jumping – it began offering the daring activity in 1997.

The cost for each jump is 205 yuan.

Rafting, river drifting, and horse riding are also available.

Getting there: Take Bus 917 from Tianqiao (near the Temple of Heaven), or board

a train from Beijing West Railway Station. Both the buses and trains leave at regular intervals throughout the day. Or drive on Jingshi Expressway and take the Liulihe exit, then drive past Hancunhe and Yunjusi. Follow the signs to Shidu, driving on G111 for about 10 kilometers.

Tel: 6134 0084

## Mangshan Hill

Mangshan Hill in Changping District, the largest national forest in Beijing, is a professional paragliding training base. Its paragliding facilities allow even first-timers to experience an exciting glide through the sky. Starting from a height of 600-plus meters, participants will get a stunning panorama of the rolling hills.

Getting there: Take Bus 888 from Deshengmen Xi station to Mangshan National Forest Park. Walk along Mangshan Lu for another 500 meters or so. Or drive on

Jingchang Expressway and take the Changping Xiguan exit (13C). Drive along Changping Zhengfu Jie to Dongguan Huandao, then follow the signs to Mangshan holiday village. Mangshan Hill is nearby.

## Qinglongxia

Qinglongxia in Huairou District is another bungee jumping spot, known for having the highest drop: 50 meters. It costs 180 yuan per person. Qinglongxia is also a good place for rock climbing (40 yuan per person).

Getting there: Take Bus 936 from Dongzhimen to Qinglongxia. Or from Sanyuanqiao, drive on Shunbai Lu to Kaifang Lu in Huairou District. From there, follow the signs for about an hour to Qinglongxia.

Tel: 8969 6099

## Yanqihu

Yanqihu is 8 kilometers outside of Huairou County. Every spring, thousands of wild geese migrate there,

giving the place its name – "lake where wild geese live." Yanqihu used to have bungee jumping, but at the moment, the facilities are being renovated. There is still rock climbing though for 40 yuan per person.

Getting there: Take Bus 936 to Yanqihu or drive on Jingcheng Expressway and take at Huairou exit. Drive on G101 until the Kaifanglu Huandao exit.

Tel: 6966 1696

## Shijingshan Amusement Park

Among the recommended places here, Shijingshan is the nearest place for rock climbing. It is also cheap: only 20 yuan per person.

Getting there: Take subway Line 1 to Bajiao Amusement Park stop. Or drive along West Fifth Ring Road and take the Jingyuan Lu exit. Drive west another 100 meters or so until you see the amusement park.

Tel: 6886 2547

Bungee jump at suburban Shidu

CFP/Photo

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# Art place or market?

By He Jianwei

This year's 798 Art Festival will draw to a close on Sunday. The 23-day exhibition, which began on September 24, included more than 100 exhibitions and activities, including concerts, drama performances, movies and forums. For the past two weeks, 798 Art District has resembled a temple fair. The district received more than 100,000 visitors on opening day alone.



**Art or real estate**  
Like SoHo in New York and Left Bank in Paris, 798 began as a settlement of artists. Ten years ago, artists set up their studios in the old factories. Galleries soon followed.

As part of its development plan, the district became a landmark of creativity with more than 400 galleries. It was named one of the 22 best city art centers by *Time Magazine* in 2003.

In purely commercial terms, 798 Art District is a success.

It contains top galleries and exhibits works by leading artists every day. According to statistics from the organizing committee, the district held more than 2,000 cultural events last year and received more than 2 million visitors, 30 percent of whom were foreign visitors.

But artists seem to be avoiding the district. Initially, it was the painfully high rent that drove many away. A simple 60-square-meter studio cost 5,000 yuan per month in rent. After accounting for living necessities and art materials, life in 798 could cost an artist more than 10,000 yuan per month.

For artists without a stable income, that's an unbearable cost.

Many fled to Beijing's remote villages, such as Caochangdi Village and Songzhuang, now the largest settlement with more than 4,000 artists.

Faced with a choice between art and business, the committee director said 798 Art District is entering its "second stage."

"In the first stage, it was a place that brought together artists. Now it is a center for exhibitions and trade," Zhang said. "In the past, the artists created in their small studios and did not open to tourists. Now more are exhibiting their works in-studio."

## Future position

In the winter of 2004, the municipal government carried out a survey and decided to create a long-term plan for the district's future. Two years later, the 798 Organizing Committee was created, and began being included in a dialogue about the future of the city's cultural creative zones.

Since 2008, the government has invested more than 100 million yuan to improve the district's infrastructure. "The galleries and cafes were developing well, but no one except the government was willing to put up the cash to improve the infrastructure," Zhang said.

He said the government funded many road repair, tree planting and clean-up projects.

"In the next years, we will enlarge the space of 798 to include 751 Factory and the kinescope factory in the east. After the expansion is complete, it will neighbor Caochangdi Village," he said.

"The future position for 798 is as a window to exhibit the best in contemporary art. That's how it can best serve the industry."



This year's festival has the largest sculpture exhibition in 798's history. The committee received 120 sculptures by 60 artists.

CFPP Photos





# Symposium compares Italian, Chinese love



Photo provided by Italian Institute of Culture

By Chu Meng

Literature is one of the best forms in which to record a country's history and culture, both of which are core components of nationalism.

This was the view of Italian and Chinese writers at the Third Symposium on Comparative Italian and Chinese Literature, an event that began Monday and was initiated by the Italian Institute of Culture in Beijing and Italian event planner Alessandro Vaccari.

Four writers from Italy – Melania Mazzucco, Federico Moccia, Valeria Parrella and Domenico Starnone – and four from China – Di An, Feng Tang, Liu Zhenyun and Wan Fang – will be meeting during the seven-day workshop for talks about common topics in literature.

The talks will focus on themes such as love and general affection toward one's parents and children, toward one's country, toward one's hometown and toward nature.

Love has a long history in literature. The angle from which it is explored has much to do with the experiences and environment of the writer. It can be hard to express or imperfect: it can also be deceitful and bloody.

"It is a timeless theme that transcends borders and cultures. Interperations of both conventional love and rarely-seen affections from unfa-

**"Patriotism is built upon the common identity of a country's common history and culture. If you lose track of both, you can hardly have patriotism."**

miliar social angles always have an audience," the planners said.

At the opening ceremony workshop, the participants discussed their understanding of patriotism, one form of love, and what it means to people today.

Valeria Parrella, a dramatist in her 30s, said rather than discussing the abstract concept, it is better to look at the achievements of patriots.

"Since its unification 150 years ago, Italy has been a country of immigrants. In one drama I am writing about the unification, I focus on the lives of early migrants from northern Africa. This will help readers to see Italian patriotism's ties to openness, tolerance and multiculturalism," she said.

"The achievements of patriotism are too rigid and heavy a topic for younger Chinese people. I would prefer to focus on the drama that

**"An Italian who says he loves eating tiramisu, pizza and seafood or going to Venice's night fair is expressing far more than saying he loves Italy."**

takes place on the soccer field during a national cup match. When young people root for their country's team, it is an abstract form of patriotism," said Di An, a 27-year-old novelist and author of four best-selling books.

Federico Moccia, a writer in his 40s, said China's younger generation has been too focused on learning about new things rather than the nation's history and culture.

"Patriotism is built upon the common identity of a country's common history and culture. If you lose track of both, you can hardly have patriotism," Moccia said.

But Liu Zhenyun, one of the most famed Chinese writers, said that expressing love of a concrete object is superior to expressing love of an abstract concept like a country.

"If a Chinese child told you he

loves dumplings, he is actually saying he loves China. It's just as an Italian who says he loves eating tiramisu, pizza and seafood or going to Venice's night fair is expressing far more than saying he loves Italy," Liu said.

Besides the workshops and talks, the institute will require all participants to write a short story about love. Their submissions will be published in a bilingual volume in 2012.

On Sunday, the symposium will award a prize for the best Qiao series Chinese translation of an Italian opera during the last year based on a survey of select members of the Institute's newsletter.

Some writers will remain after the conference for events in Xi'an, Shanghai, Nanjing and Chongqing.

## Talk schedule

Valeria Parrella vs. Di An

When: October 14, 6 pm

Domenico Starnone vs. Liu

Zhenyun

When: October 15, 6 pm

Federico Moccia vs. Feng Tang

When: October 16, 6 pm

Where: Italian Institute of Culture, Sanlitun Dongyi Jie, Chaoyang District

Admission: Free

Tel: 6532 2187

# Speak through the body

By He Jianwei

Leading sculptor Xiang Jiang's creations speak through the female form.

She conveys a woman's inner world through her lifelike sculptures. In her previous series, the nude women are neither beautiful nor sexy, but eerie with expressions of depression and malaise.

But Xiang goes beyond the female form to observe the world through the bodies of acrobats and animals in her recent works.

After her last solo exhibition, *Naked Beyond Skin*, in 2008, Xiang said she would bid farewell to her female subjects – at least for a while.

Consequently, that became the theme in her life. She experienced grief after her father's death and left Shanghai to return to her birthplace: Beijing. That journey began the creation of her new series.

Three years later, she is presenting two series – "Acrobats" and "Animals" – at her latest solo exhibition titled *Will Things Ever Get Better* at Today Art Museum. The exhibitions include her creations from 2008 to 2011.

The title of the exhibition comes from the philosopher Liang Shuming. In his book, Liang recalls his last words with his father Liang Ji.

On November 7, 1918, his father was ready to go out and meet Liang. They talked about the news of World War I. His father asked, "Will things ever get better?" "I believe the world gets better and better," the son answered. "I hope so," the father said, leaving home. Three days later, his father drowned himself in a lake.

The main hall of the museum is like a theater, where a huge, dark red velvet curtain divides Xiang's 14 groups of sculptures.

In the eight groups of acrobats she shows two acrobatic skills – press-lift and jujitsu – each with impossible gestures. In "Endless Tower," 10 women are piled up like a tower. Each flips her legs to her head with a smile as required by a performance. But the wooden smile betray physical pressure.

"It is almost impossible in reality for the acrobats to do such an extreme bend. A woman cannot bear the gravity of nine other women in such a difficult position," Xiang says.

The theme of acrobatics has haunted her for many years. In her childhood, she watched a Hong Kong's documentary called *Acrobatic Heroes* and became fascinated with the amazing world of acrobatics.

After her last solo exhibition, she landed on the idea

of using acrobats. But she did not represent their astonishing skills in her works. Their exaggerated poses convey cruelty and distortion as they are forced to smile.

The back of the stage looks like a better world, dotted with sculptures of animals. Xiang says she has a strong emotional resonance with animals. "If a pure emotion really exists in the world, it is in the hearts of animals," she wrote in an article about her two dogs for the book *I Have Seen Happiness*.

At first, she was considering many kinds of animals. In the end, she settled on six. "Looking back at the animals I sculpted, I found that there are no fierce animals: all are docile," she says. "Maybe my subconscious prefers to display virtuosity rather than evil."

"Acrobats" has a distinct flavor of performance, but "Animals" is more connected to the sense of being surrounded by onlookers. On the surface these themes seemingly have nothing to do with her focus on human nature and emotional pain in previous works.

"What I'm working with now is directly connected to a person's sense of identity. Role or performance or being looked at, I think, these concepts can bring out fresh, intense expressions of identity," she says.



## Will Things Ever Get Better? – Xiang Jing 2008-2011

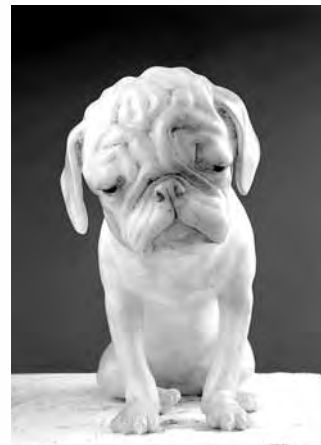
Where: Today Art Museum, 32 Baizhiwan Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until October 15, 10 am – 5 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5876 9804



Mortals: Flexible body



Otherworld: Will Things Ever Get Better?



Otherworld: Over yonder



Otherworld: The Silver Age

Mortals: The Trinity  
Photos provided by  
Today Art Museum



# Reborn from the traditional

By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* introduces some newly released items with Chinese characteristics, including handicrafts, bedroom items and accessories from the children's apparel brand Tang'Roulou, and ornately decorated ethnic Miao silver accessories.



Cherry flower cuddly blanket, 210 yuan



Pillow towel, 180 yuan

The Miao ethnic minority is concentrated in southwest China, and silver accessories are an important part of Miao women's daily wear.

The traditional Miao silver accessories are very garish, but refined pieces can be stunning in their simplicity and just the right item for city girls.

Traditionally, silver craftsmen are male, and businesses are family-run.

A nice silver accessory requires a lot of effort to produce.

The Miao ethnic accessory we're introducing is from a workshop called Wu Shi Silver Forging Factory, run by Wu Guoqing.

Wu, 32, is a fifth-generation silver craftsman from Guizhou Province. His father taught him how to create silver accessories when he was a child.

His workshop not only processes silver accessories, but also takes customized orders. Most of Wu's works try to combine traditional and modern techniques, and present traditional aesthetic values.

Tang'Roulou is a children's apparel brand started by two Frenchmen. Its designs are inspired by traditional Chinese elements that look cute on children. It uses natural materials in its products.

French designer and co-founder Amelie Peraud opened Tang'Roulou in 2004 after she tried to make a gift for a pregnant friend. After seven years, the brand moved from a small shop in Zhonggulou Dajie to Sanlitun and began working with rural women in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region to help improve their living situation and set up more sales channels in town.

Tang'Roulou is rolling out more items suitable for colder weather.

## Guizhou Wu Shi Silver Forging Factory

Contact: Mr. Wu Guoqing, 15801223752

Email: miao320@vip.sina.com

## Tang'Roulou

Where: Inside Phoenix Design, 30 Sanlitun BeiJie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10:30 am - 8 pm

Tel: 6416 9761



Chinese tunic for children ages 2 to 8, 380 yuan



Decorative turtle, 150 yuan



Miao ethnic necklace, price to be decided



Bangle, price to be decided

Photos provided by Tang'Roulou/Wu Guoqing

# Eat right and eat smart

By Annie Wei

With costs rising in every quarter, it's easy to become suspicious of restaurants that offer cheap food. How much quality are they sacrificing? *Beijing Today's* recommendation is to cook at home or choose restaurants whose reputations are solid.



Pork and beans, paired with avocado with cream and crispy pork skin, 280 yuan  
Photos provided by Grill 79

## Shandong dishes delivered with exceptional service

Probably no other hotel in town directly operates as many restaurants as Hotel Kunlun, which has seven restaurants covering authentic Shandong, Shanghai, Cantonese, Sichuan, Thailand, Vietnam and Japanese cuisines, and has two cafes on top of that.

You can choose expensive ingredients and meals from any of them. But for a light, comfortable home-style meal, we recommend Simple House, a Shandong restaurant with wide selections.

We recommend the laiyangmian (38 yuan), noodles in chicken soup. The noodles are smooth, tender and tasty and the soup is prepared using a dozen different kinds of soy sauces. Pair it with home-style cabbage (48 yuan) and you'll be deeply satisfied.

The deep-fried meatballs (68 yuan) are a must. These even-sized, gold nuggets are tender and delicious, with a strong meat aroma.

To test if a Shandong restaurant is authentic, try its braised mullet "egg" (38 yuan). It's a classic Shandong dish made of very thin curls sliced from black mullet egg glands. The glands should be

soft and smooth, cooked in a clear pork bone stock thickened with flour and seasoned with black pepper. In most Shandong restaurants, this dish is garnished with chopped coriander stems and leaves, which is how it should be done.

If you plan to spend more, try the braised sea cucumber (388 yuan), a famous Shandong dish with scallions, or the highly nourishing stewed pigeon with Chinese herbs (498 yuan).

For dessert, we suggest hawthorn puree (16 yuan). Hawthorns aid digestion. The cold puree mixed with Chinese cheese tastes sweet and sour. The Chinese cheese, unlike French or European ones, is fermented from fresh dairy and rice wine.

The Simple House's decoration is impressive: courtyard-style from southern China, with views of rocks and water amid greenery outside wood-framed windows.

### Simple House

Where: 1st floor, Hotel Kunlun, 2 Xinyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5:30–9 pm

Tel: 6590 3388 ext. 5673



Braised sea cucumber, 388 yuan

Photo provided by Simple House

## Rich, nutritious and tasty food for colder weather

There is a Chinese saying, "tieqiubiao," which means it's good to eat richer foods for in cold days of autumn. Many restaurants have updated their menus for the fall, giving diners better choices to eat seasonally.

At Grill 79, the tallest restaurant in town, chef Ryan Dadufalza and his team start a new menu this month, with 30 new recipes, including 11 appetizers, 13 main courses and six desserts, with quite a few vegetarian options.

Dadufalza likes fresh, quality ingredients and natural flavors. His chefs use low-temperature cooking techniques, and while dishes take longer to prepare, they end up being richer in taste.

Grill 79 takes pride in creating complex dishes. Take its baby lobster starter, for instance, which is made with squid ink tempura, saffron with cauliflower couscous and chorizo (315 yuan). Tempura-style preparation keeps the lobster meat tender and chewy.

Its chicken is garnished with eggs, smoked Caesar dressing, asparagus and romaine leaves (160 yuan), and is light and refreshing. The chicken and eggs are tender, as they are prepared at low temperatures.

Other good dishes include pork and beans, paired with avocado with cream and chicharon (crispy pork skin) (280 yuan), and beef and barley, paired with braised short ribs with celery root and grilled shallots (300 yuan). The low-temperature preparation gives the pork and beef really great flavoring.

Dadufalza said he likes using barley soaked in beef stock. The beef in the end comes out tender, chewy and easy to digest.

Diners can finish their meal with Grill 79's new chocolate graffiti or coffee and doughnuts. The cold weather offers a convenient excuse to indulge in chocolate.

### Grill 79

Where: Floor 79, China World Summit Wing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: Noon – 2 am next day

Tel: 6505 2299 ext. 6425



Salad, price to be decided

## Fresh meals around Sanlitun

Sanlitun still has chic restaurants, but prices are going up and quality is going down.

An exception can be found at Backyard Café, which has become Sanlitun's newest hotspot for its healthy food at comparatively low prices. For example, the breakfast combo with congee or free-range scrambled eggs and Americano coffee is a good deal (24 yuan).

Many people like its home-made bakery, which sells whole wheat bread (10 yuan) and chewy oatmeal raisin cookies (5 yuan), and its smoothies (28 to 32 yuan) are great sources of fiber, protein and omega-3 fatty acids.

We also recommend its rice dishes made of black and red rice, which have more fiber than regular white rice. For vegetarians, try its tofu vegan rice (35 yuan), with smoked tofu, mushroom, broccoli, red pepper, onion and asparagus.

The restaurant claims to use free-range eggs only and unbleached flour.

Its coffee also costs less than its neighbors, from 18 to 23 yuan. Fresh juices cost 23 to 25 yuan.

### Backyard Café

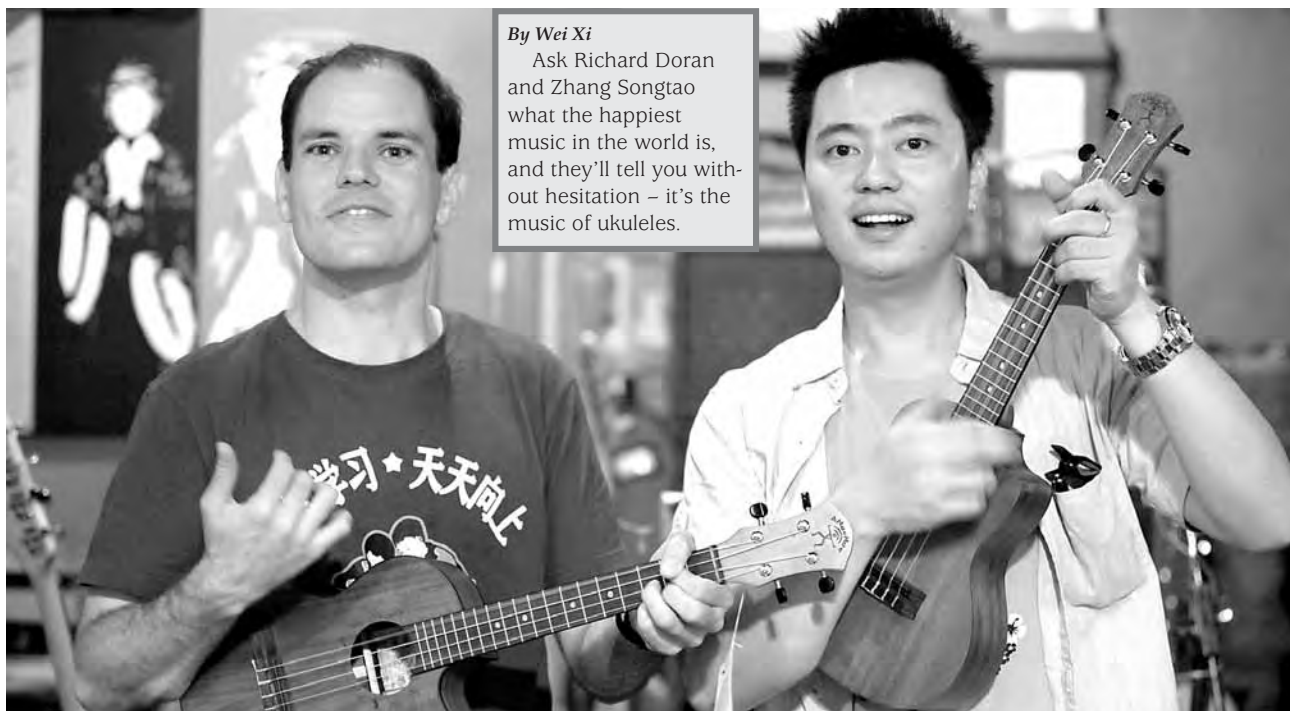
Where: 2 Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie (near the Liangma River), Chaoyang District

Open: 8 am – 9:30 pm, Monday to Friday; 10 am – 9:30 pm, weekends

Tel: 6464 7642



# Jolly fellows and their jolly music



By Wei Xi

Ask Richard Doran and Zhang Songtao what the happiest music in the world is, and they'll tell you without hesitation – it's the music of ukuleles.

The duo prefers to sing folk songs with ukulele accompaniment.

Photos provided by The Jolly Fellow Uku Band

Doran, from Ireland, and Zhang, from Chongqing, make up The Jolly Fellow Uku Band. Neither is a full-time musician, but for them, playing the ukulele is a joyous pastime.

"It's very convenient to carry a ukulele wherever you go. For example, when you are waiting for your mom in a shopping mall, you can just take it out and play," Zhang said. "And it is also easy to learn. Within five minutes, you can play a song."

Mastering the ukulele can even make amateur musicians feel like professionals.

That's how it was for Zhang and Doran, who both have day jobs. Doran is a CCTV-10 and CRI anchor-man, while Zhang teaches English. But the two are currently preparing for a concert in Shanghai, which will be their first performance in that city.

The duo will perform original songs, some with electronic elements. They are also selecting their best songs for an album that might

be released by the end of the year.

Doran and Zhang prefer to sing folk songs with ukulele accompaniment. They'll also occasionally write new songs according to recent events or their moods.

Zhang, who used to teach at New Oriental, founded his own online studying platform, ukuenglish.com, in 2009. On that platform, Zhang has written several English songs for children with his ukulele, helping them conceptualize the language.

Zhang said nowadays, many Chinese children are forced by their parents to learn the piano or other traditional instruments. But the ukulele can be a nice alternative, because it's easy to learn and fun to play. For families that can't afford expensive instruments like a piano, the ukulele can be a good choice to cultivate a child's musical intelligence.

Another reason to love the ukulele, said Doran, is because it brings happiness to life.

"I think the ukulele is one of the happiest instruments in the world," he said. "It can wipe all your worries away when you're playing."

Zhang said that in Japan, people play the ukulele to confront daily pressures of life. He also heard a story about a Japanese man who turned to the ukulele to manage his depression and suppress thoughts of suicide.

The first time Doran played the ukulele was in 2003, when the capital was paralyzed by the SARS epidemic. "I was in Beijing at that time and had nothing to do," Doran said. "So I started to play the ukulele."

Zhang, who played guitar for several years, was introduced to Doran from MySpace in 2005 and got to know the ukulele through him.

After several performances in Ritan Park, the two found they had a lot of similarities, so they decided to form a band.

"We think playing the ukulele alone is too monotonous, and some-

times it's better if we add some of my guitar music," Zhang said.

The duo sometimes adds other instruments such as the tambourine and maraca. If the two forget the lyric to a certain song, Doran will do a silly dance to make the audience laugh.

On stage, the two are jolly, silly and cheerful. They like audience interaction, and will often hand the microphone to people standing next to the stage. They believe ukulele music belongs to everyone.

Doran and Zhang have performed in many places, in hutong bars like Salud, 121 and Hot Cat Club, and sometimes just on the streets.

"I remember in previous years, we played informally on a street at Nanluogu Xiang, and a surprisingly huge crowd stopped to listen to our music," Zhang said. "In the end we were driven away by city inspectors."

Zhang said the ukulele has allowed him and Doran to express themselves, both musically and as people.



## The Jolly Fellow Uku Band's next performance

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Sunday, 8 pm

Admission: Free for those who show a copy of this *Beijing Today*



“Sparked to start, and then to succeed.”

# First forum draws independent animators

By Zhang Dongya

The first China Independent Animation Film Forum was held at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) and Iberia Center for Contemporary Art (ICCA) last week. “The forum does not focus on competition, but is a festival for all animators,” said Pisan, co-founder and curator of the forum.

**L**ee's Adventure, a film adapted from the animation *The Adventures of Li Xianji*, began playing in movie theaters around the nation on October 1.

Although the animators had some complaints about the adaption, it was the first time an independent animated film received such a widespread release in China.

Pisan said there were no direct connections between the screening and his forum held in October, but he agreed “it is a landmark event” for independent animation.

Pisan, 40, the moniker of Wang Bo, founder of Beijing Hutoon Animation Company in 2005. He is often invited to contribute short animations for use in films.

After three years of planning, Pisan, one of China's leading animators, and veteran curator Dong Bingfeng teamed up to organize the first forum for Chinese independent animation.

“Compared to other Asian countries, independent creation and expression is more difficult in China due to heavy regulation of film production. To produce and distribute an independent animation relies heavily on non-governmental platforms and international film festivals,” Dong said.

The forum was a way to make up for the lack of policy and screening support, he said.

Pisan and Dong began collecting work in April. Only works made during the last two years were considered for inclusion. They received more than 400



films from hopeful animators, and eventually narrowed the collection down to 39.

Among the works selected, *Piercing I*, produced by Liu Jian, an animation director born in 1969, won the Best Animation award and the Satoshi Kon Award, founded by a Japanese animator. *Chase*, by Wu Chao, born in the 1970s, won the forum's Foundation Award.

“This decade hasn't had any great leaders in the Chinese animation industry. We didn't think there was any such person who was suitable for a position on the jury,” Pisan said.

He and Dong instead invited representatives from related fields, such as musician Zuoxiao Zuzhou, director Xue Yanping, who served as the judge of professional theory, and film critic Wei Xidi.

Besides the contest, the forum held several retrospectives on Chinese animation.

2000 was dubbed “the year of Adobe Flash animation,” when Laojiang finished

*Rock and Roll on the New Long March*, a Flash animated music video for rocker Cui Jian.

At the First Chinese Independent Film Festival in 2001, the award for Best Feature Film went to a 10-minute animation named *Talk*, produced by Meng Jun in Beijing. Since then, Chinese independent animation has grown considerably.

Pisan said there were few animation films produced before 2000, and most Chinese animators were doing processing jobs for others. With the popularity of PCs and Adobe Flash, animators began to create their own works.

The country also turned its attention to animation, establishing departments at several universities. Today's famous schools include the Animation School at the Beijing Academy of Film, as well as the Media and Animation School at the China Academy of Art.

Students are still a major force in the Chinese animation

industry. Two thirds of the works produced each year were created by students as their capstone projects. However, the Chinese animation industry has been slow to grow – most of these talented students find few opportunities to use their skills after graduation.

“University students have to give up animation after they finish study because they can't make a living. That phenomenon is strangling the industry,” Pisan said.

According to a report on Chinese animation issued in May, there were 200 licensed animation institutes and organizations in 2010, compared to 35 in 2005. China produced 385 animations last year, surpassing Japan to become the world's top animation-producing country.

“But that's sad. This mass production has yielded few works worth celebrating. The number is just a number,” he said.

Independent animation has developed slowly, with a few excellent works produced in



The independent animation film forum is providing a platform for Chinese animators to exchange ideas for the first time.

Photos provided by ICCA



recent years, such as Li Yang's *The Adventures of Li Xianji* and *Kungfu Bunny*, by Li Zhiyong.

Commercial animation has only one notable achievement: *Pleasant Goat and Big Big Wolf*. But part of that program's success may be a lack of worthy competitors.

Pisan said it takes a long time to cultivate an audience that is interested in watching animation. “It takes a long time, and requires the government's support early on,” he said.

There seems to be no market for Chinese independent animations.

On Tuesday, the latest episode of *Miss Puff*, produced by Pisan's Beijing Hutoon Animation Company and Youku, drew angry comments as soon as it was uploaded. It was easy to guess the comments were not posted by a competitor, since there was no competing animator. The malicious comments most likely belonged to a rival video website, he said.

Another embarrassment is that achievements are frequently hijacked by government officials to promote their own careers. There are many animation festivals in cities around the country every year. Some events invite officials and university leaders instead of professional animators.

Pisan and Dong said they plan to turn the forum into a biennial event.



# Taking in fresh air in the city's suburban parks

By Zhao Hongyi

While residents inside Beijing often complain about being surrounded by steel and iron skyscrapers, the city offers many natural sites on its outskirts where visitors can relax and breathe in fresh air.

Beijing has 36 suburban parks along Fifth and Sixth Ring Road, which collectively are known as the green belt of the capital, maintained over the last 30 years as a buffer against sandstorms.

*Beijing Today* has selected five suburban parks worth visiting. For more information, visit [ly.beijing.cn/bjlyfw/bjjygy](http://ly.beijing.cn/bjlyfw/bjjygy)



Photos by Mockingbird

Beijing's 36 suburban parks occupy 3,500 hectares of land, said Yang Zhihua, forest land management chief of the Municipal Bureau of Landscape and Forestry.

Of these, 10 were recently built or renovated and opened on October 1, Yang said.

Another five river parks will open at the beginning of next year.

Yang said there are more than 50 parks within Fifth Ring Road.

## Taiyanggong Sports Outskirts Park

Off Taiyanggong station on subway Line 10 is a 30-hectare space that was used to design a sports theme park in 2008. Bike lanes, sports facilities, forests and lakes make this place an ideal spot for recreation. It's often frequented by residents of the surrounding Wangjing community.

This park has a comprehensive service center with bikes for rent.

**Where:** Taiyanggong (opposite old International Exhibition Center), Chaoyang District

**How to get there:** Take Bus 361, 944, 753, 628, 966, 470, 467, 606, 408, 623 or 740 to Wangjing Qiao Xi station, or drive along Beijing-Chengde Highway to the park.

## Yuquan Outskirts Park

Located in western Beijing, in ancient times Yuquan Mountain was the sole source of fresh water for the royal family. The park stands on the southern side of the mountain with a total area of 46 hectares. Green space occupies about 90 percent of the park.

The park has unique and tremendously beautiful scenery, with the Fragrant Hills to the west, Yuquan Mountain to the north and Jinhe (Golden River) to the south.

The park is also full of history, as it was built according to traditional and royal gardens. Aside from houses, though, everything inside the park is natural.

Locals think drinking from water in the park – once only a privilege of the royal family – brings good fortune.

There are 8,000 types of plants, trees and flowers, and 93,000 square meters of grasslands here. The most famous sites include a deep valley, a big forest and three islets.

**Where:** Four Season Town, Haidian District

**How to get there:** Take Bus 469 or 539 to Zhongwu Station and walk 500 meters west, or take Bus 698, 360, or 714 to Xiaotun Station, or drive to Beiwu Village on the northwest corner of Fourth Ring Road.

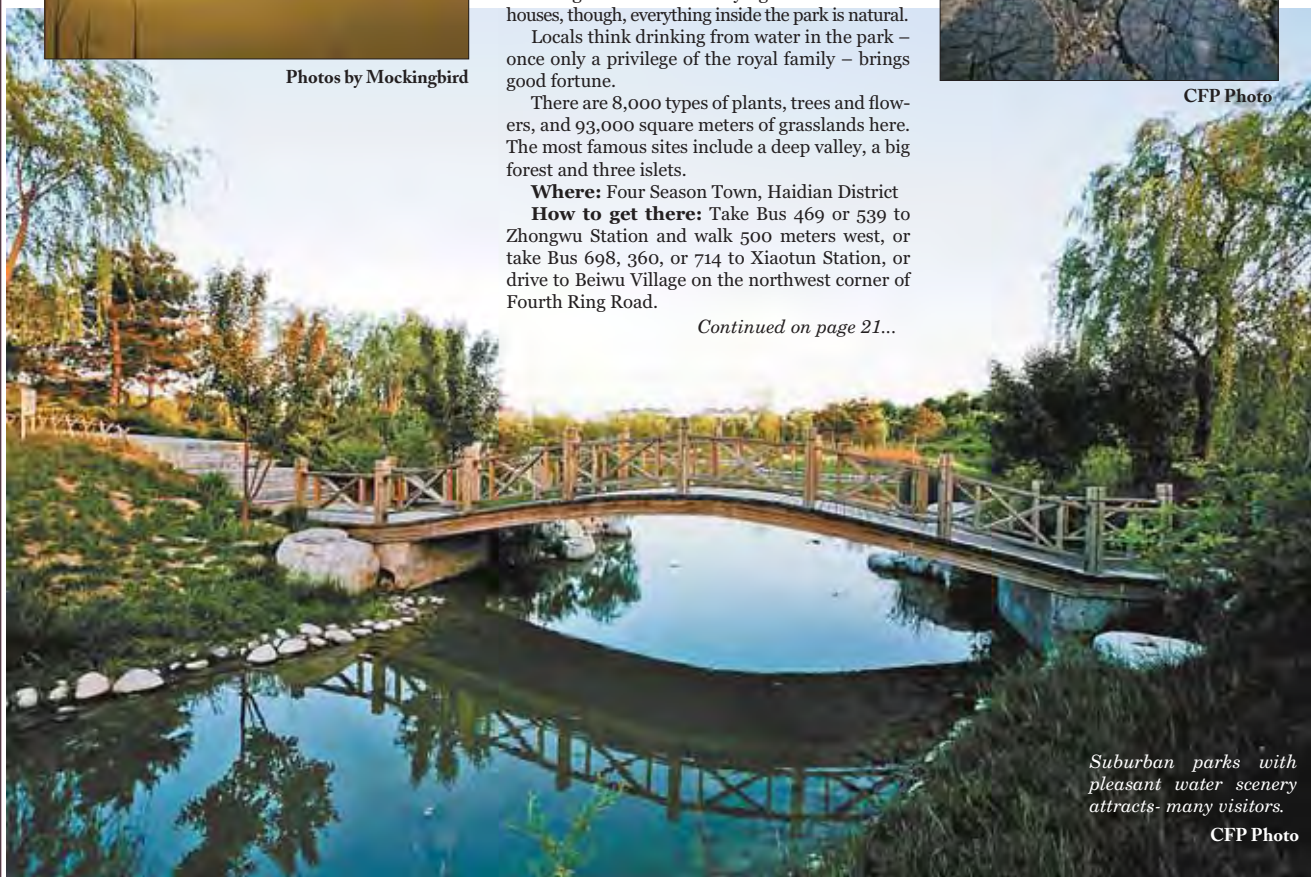
*Continued on page 21...*



Dongba Outskirts Park is a large park with a beautiful area full of flowers.



CFP Photo



Suburban parks with pleasant water scenery attracts many visitors.

CFP Photo



...continued from page 20

### Haizi Outskirts Park

Beijing is so far away from the coast that locals in ancient times called lakes "seas" – or *haizi*. This park used to be the site of a wetlands that was used by the royal family to raise deer, hares, goats and other game.

About 100 years ago, the wetlands served as home for poor families to settle down. But there's an animal park here, a reminder of its original purpose.

The park features Pere David's deer, or *milu*, from the UK. The *milu* used to graze on these wetlands during the days of the Qing, but they disappeared at the turn of the century.

In the late 1970s, China learned the UK had *milu* and was able to introduce the animal back into the country.

The park is about 27 hectares. There is a big lake in the center and an ancient plaza with traditional pavilions, watch-towers and houses. There are hundreds of species of flowers, trees and grass.

**Where:** Xinfadi Village, Huaxiang Town, Fengtai District (2.5 kilometers south of Yuquanying Crossroad)

### How to get there:

Take Bus 377, 381, 410, 423, 434, 454 or 474 to Xinfadi Bridge North station, or drive along the Beijing-Kaifeng Highway and exit at the north of Xinfadi Bridge.

### Dongba Outskirts Park

This park on East Fifth Ring Road is close to the diplomatic community and central business district (CBD). Two highways run through the south and east sides of the park.

Only five years ago, this area was a traditional village, where farming was the traditional way of life. Rapid construction has changed the area completely, spurred by the prosperous blocks that developed just to the east. This park is considered the garden of CBD.

The park consists of nearly 300 hectares green land and is divided into three parts: farming, forestry and gardening sections.

"Ecology, Health and Leisure" is the park's theme, as evidenced by the hills,

water, gardens and fruits.

One particularly popular part of the park is a place where visitors can pick cherries, pears, peaches, apricots, jujubes,

plums and apples.

Free health-care information is also available.

The natural landscape here is special. There is a large grasslands, streams and pools. People can barbeque on a field as well.

In another part are dams and royal horse barns with stories that visitors can learn about.

**Where:** Dongba Town, Chaoyang District

**How to get there:** Take Bus 750 or 729 to Dongba Jiancai Cheng and walk 500 meters south, or take Bus 364 to Jiaozhuang Village. Or drive east along Chaoyang Park and follow the sign boards.

### Gaobeidian Outskirts Park

This park was built in 1992 with a total area of 52 hectares. There is a 10-kilometer path that zigzags

around eight hills and a lake.

The park is characteristic of parks found in the south, with brooks, bamboo, stones, flowers and trees everywhere.

Visitors can rent a boat on the central lake, a pleasant way to spend an afternoon.

Gaobeidian used to be a poor village, but it began developing traditional Chinese furniture starting in the 1990s, which attracted lots of consumers. People come from around the country now come here to buy the unique traditional furnitures full of Chinese flavor.

**Where:** A8, Xinglong Village, Gaobeidian Town, Chaoyang District (east of Chang'an Jie and opposite of Communication University of China)

**How to get there:** Take Bus 342, 382, 648, 846 or 731 to Gao Jin station, or drive east along Chang'an Jie, then turn south when you get to the university, which is on the north side of the avenue.



Yuquan Outskirts Park has a good location, with the Fragrant Hills to the west.

CFP Photos



# If you can dream it, you can make it



Mitch Altman (right) and Eric Pan, the founder of Chaihuo Makerspace

Photos provided by Eric Pan

By Chu Meng

Have you ever thought of designing your own mobile phone case using a 3D printer? What about building a remote control cleaning robot or adapting an IKEA sofa for another use?

"Makers" have.



Open hardware makers from Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen met in Beijing for the China Makers' Union Carnival.

The maker subculture is an offshoot of the open-source-loving hacker movement. Makers devote their free time to creating innovative, small machines using system-on-a-chip technology and custom software that they usually share with similar DIY enthusiasts.

But to complete their designs, makers usually need access to serious hardware. That's where "makerspaces" come in. These meeting places are a central location where DIY fans can meet to share access to the industrial tool sets and sophisticated machines needed to realize their most complicated designs.

The first makerspace was created in Silicon Valley in 2007. This year, China got its first three makerspaces: the Beijing Makerspace, the Xinkongjian Makerspace in Shanghai and the Chaihuo Makerspace in Shenzhen.

To show off their enthusiasm for open creations, local makers are organizing two events during the coming weekend in Beijing: the China Makers' Union Carnival and China Open Source Week.

Eric Pan, the 28-year-old organizer of the Chaihuo Makerspace, said open-source philosophy is the core value that unites makers.

The concept of open source has its roots in programming and hacker culture. The majority of commercial software programs are called "closed source," since they do not include or do not allow modification of their underlying code. An open source program, by contrast, allows anyone to freely share, use and modify its code.

Among the most prominent examples of open source technology are Google's Android operating system used on many smart phones, the Firefox Web browser, the Blender 3D design and animation suite and the WordPress blogging platform.

Since then, "open" has been expanded to include hardware, chemical formulas, recipes and more.

Creators of open hardware



A robot created by open hardware makers on display at the New York Maker Fair in September



The MakerBot 3D printer attracts attention wherever it is demonstrated.

share their machine schematics, components lists and source code in standardized formats that make it easy for other people to recreate or adapt the machines for their own use, Pan said.

"The 'free' part means that makers can find open hardware on the Internet and build it without having to pay money to the creators. They can also improve the design to make it cheaper to produce or more efficient, or to expand its functionality," Pan said.

"And most importantly,

they have to contribute their modifications back to the maker community in the same open format."

Pan, an electric engineer, first learned about the open spirit while using the GNU/Linux operating system as a student at Shenzhen University. Four years ago, his interests began to expand to open hardware and makerspaces.

One week after coming back from New York Maker Fair, the world's biggest maker convention on September 17 and 18, he founded the Chaihuo Makerspace in Shenzhen.

Between the city's dynamic DIY environment and his own background knowledge, Chaihuo became a runaway success.

The strongest US makerspaces are founded on semi-anarchistic principles. Among the most successful are NYC Resistor, Noisebridge and MakerBot, the creator of a popular line of 3D printers and 3D printable laser cutters.

"But 90 percent of other the participants in the scene are small groups or individuals. They are more like DIY electronics fans. At the fair, I saw one 12-year-old boy who brought his remote control Mario Turtle toy, whose shell was printed by 3D printer," Pan said.

Originally makerspaces were joined to hackerspaces, but distinctions between the two subcultures have emerged during the past two years. Makers are a specific subgroup of hackers who focus on prototyping open hardware, whereas hacker interests can vary from extreme programming to network security and penetration testing.

"Professionals like MakerBot are important, because their

contributions enrich the pool of open hardware and system-on-a-chip products we have to learn from. As machine costs become cheaper, it will be easier for more grassroots makers to participate," Pan said.

The members of Chaihuo are people with an interest in computers, technology, science and electronics, as well as more creative fields like art, design and photography. They meet, socialize and collaborate as a non-commercial organization.

"We have rented a 300-square-meter factory hall where we meet on a weekly basis. Our makerspace can be viewed as an open community lab that incorporates elements of machine shops, workshops and studios," he said.

Many of their creations are powered with Arduino hardware, a basic and easy-to-program circuit for controlling small machines.

"The subculture doesn't have any age or background limitations. We are a platform for sharing mutual inspiration, even really bizarre ideas. One of our members is the head of a kindergarten. One day he made a tea kettle with the 3D printer and put a Gadgeteer sound mixer in it to create funny noises," he said.

For most makers, the draw is the chance to participate and make personal achievements.

"We are providing some elementary classes, like how to weld circuits, how to use a 3D printer and how to make easy robots using the Arduino. We hope more people will join to experience working under an open philosophy," he said.

In the US and UK, some successful makerspaces have shifted to commercializing their open hardware creations by hiring big companies for mass manufacturing.

As a master maker himself, Pan has established his own company, Seeded Studio. The company aims to help international auto and medical equipment manufacturers to turn innovative ideas for future products into prototypes using open hardware technology.

## Hotel

### S.T.A.Y. by Yannick Alléno opens at Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing

French Chef Yannick Alléno's S.T.A.Y. opened at the Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing on September 16. The culinary experience, an acronym for "Simple Table Alléno Yannick," provides diners with a consummate dining experience by reinterpreting traditional dishes and exploring French cuisine in a fun and interactive setting.

With a new culinary and service teams in place that was handpicked by Chef Alléno, this first S.T.A.Y. in Asia adds a breath of fresh air to the Beijing culinary scene with its innovative French cuisine.



### Marriott International and Ctrip link up

Marriott International recently established direct connectivity between its hotel reservation system (MARSHA) and Ctrip, a leading provider of hotel accommodations, airline tickets, packaged tours and corporate travel management in China. Ctrip is Marriott's first business-to-consumer online distribution partner in China with direct global system connectivity.

"The direct connectivity will greatly help with marketing our hotels to outbound travelers in China. Through Ctrip's platform, travelers can make bookings at any Marriott hotel worldwide and receive confirmation on a real-time basis," said Alexander Pyhan, senior director of Global E-Commerce Channels, EMEA & Asia Pacific of Marriott International.

### Grand Millennium Beijing the choice of Lord Jonathan Marland

Grand Millennium Beijing was the venue of choice for the UK Trade & Investment Design Mission Creative Industries Seminar on September 26 and 27. The delegation group stayed at the hotel from September 24 to October 1.

Mr. Lord Jonathan Marland, the parliamentary undersecretary of state for the Department of Energy and Climate Change and chairman of the UK Trade and Investment's Business Ambassadors' Group, was greeted by Glen Cook, manager of the Grand Millennium Beijing.

## Dinning



### Scene a Cafe serves up Mediterranean treats

Scene a Cafe is adding a range of dishes that showcase the range and versatility of Mediterranean cuisine to its theater dinner buffet. Among its most popular dishes are Turkish-style cod pilaki, Moroccan chicken tagine with lemon and seven-spiced braised lamb shank. Don't miss out!

Where: China World Hotel, Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Waidajie

When: October 10-23

Cost: Dinner buffet, 298 yuan (15 percent gratuity except on Friday Lobster Night)

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 35

### Buy 1 Get 1 Free buffet spread

Grand Millennium Beijing is offering a "Buy 1 Get 1 Free" special for lunch and dinner buffets at its CBD International Cuisine through November 30. Indulge in some of the best of global cuisine in a delectable spread of luscious salmon, tuna, prawns, grilled lamb and variety of sushi.

Where: CBD International Cuisine, Grand Millennium Beijing, Fortune Plaza, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District

When: Daily, until November 30

Tel: 8587 6888-3012



### Golden hairy crabs at Sunworld Dynasty Hotel

Don't forget to try the finest seasonal hairy crabs from Yangcheng Lake and taste a series of delicious crab dishes this golden autumn.

Royal Restaurant at Sunworld Dynasty Hotel is presenting a parade of delectable crab specialties for crab aficionados. It will be an unforgettable culinary experience this season.

Where: Royal Restaurant, Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, 50 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

Cost: 328 yuan per male crab (200 grams), 238 yuan per female crab (150 grams)

Tel: 5816 8888 ext. 8288



(By Jackie Zhang)

## Airline

### British Airways' 'early bird' specials still open

There are still a few days left to snag an early-bird special on British Airways. The offer, which ends October 18, guarantees fares as low as 3,800 yuan round-trip for travelers bound for the UK and Europe before March 2012. This is a great value, and customers can choose to connect onward to 16 European destinations for the same price.

Early-bird rates in the more comfortable and roomy World Traveler Plus premium economy cabin start from 9,800 yuan.

"Whether you're planning to visit family or friends, shop or soak in the Christmas atmosphere, this is the perfect opportunity to lock in the lowest fares on ba.com," said Kevin McQuillan, British Airways' regional general manager, East Asia.

Book early at ba.com and secure this great deal. Seats are limited, so book soon!

## Rent

### High-end 3-bed apartment in China Central Place

This vacant apartment in China Central (Huamao) has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a spacious south-facing living room, a finished kitchen with an oven and a storage room. It is located on the 20th floor and has a beautiful view. Basic appliances, broadband Internet and cable TV are available. Rent is 18,000 yuan per month, including heating and management fees. Furniture will be provided according to the renter's needs.

Tel: 13693294779



Fri, Oct. 14

**Exhibition****Say Hi to the Future**

This exhibition presents about 80 paintings by 66 artists born in the 1970s and 1980s. All the paintings are smaller than 1 square meter in size. The works will be sold in the Hi Art Store, most for

less than 5,000 yuan.

Where: Hi Art Store, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 27, 10 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9418

**Nightlife****Huang Jianwei's China Tour Concert**

Taiwanese folk singer Huang Jianwei is a therapist by day. He has been

well received in both Taiwan and the mainland for his simple and sincere songs. Listeners say his songs can cure broken hearts.

Where: The One Club, Building 5, 718 Art and Culture Zone, 19 Ganluyuan, Gaobeidian Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 80 yuan advance purchase, 100 yuan at the door

Tel: 51290 082



Sat, Oct. 15

**Movie****Films Written by Eileen Chang: June Bride (1960) and The Greatest Wedding on Earth (1962)**

Eileen Chang (1920-1995) was famous for her fiction dealing with the tensions between men and women in love. Besides being a novelist, she also wrote scripts in Shanghai after World War II and in Hong Kong after she left the mainland. Most of her scripts were comedies that were more optimistic than her novels.

The first film is a musical comedy depicting the romance between three pairs of lovers and presenting a diverse panorama of urban relationships in the modern age. The second is a comedy exploring the conflict between Hong Kong natives and those who immigrated from the mainland.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 4:30 pm (first film), 7 pm (second one)

Admission: 15 yuan per film, 10 yuan for students

Tel: 8459 9269



Photos provided by Cathayisation and Hong Kong Film Archive

Sun, Oct. 16

**Dance****Bolero – Bejart Ballet Lausanne Beijing Tour**

This Swiss ballet company presents two programs, *Dionysos* and *Bolero*, by the late choreographer Maurice Bejart, who died four years ago. There will also be a new piece choreographed by artist-director Gil Roman.

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Mon, Oct. 17

**Exhibition****West 9-301 – Ma Nan Solo Exhibition**

This exhibition shows Ma Nan's paintings in two periods – between 1983 and 1988, and

between 2005 and 2011 – documenting the artist's recollection of childhood and construction of his imaginary world.

Where: Art Seasons, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 6, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9850



Tue, Oct. 18

**Exhibition****Guanxi: Contemporary Chinese Art**

The term *guanxi* describes the dynamics of personal networks and is one of the most powerful forces shaping modern Chinese culture. Due to the inadequacy of any direct translation, *guanxi* has become borrowed into the English and is seen as crucial to understand for businesses entering the Chinese market. "In the Chinese context, *guanxi* has become life itself," said Jiang Jiehong, curator of this exhibition. He arranged the exhibition through emails with 12 artists. "I suggested setting up a regular email exchange with each artist individually as a reflective process to explore, initiate and evaluate the new form of *guanxi* between artist and curator," he said.

Where: Today Art Museum, 32 Baiziwang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 23, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 9804



Photo provided by JP Morgan

Wed, Oct. 19

**Exhibition****Bionics – Peng Rong Contemporary Photography Solo Exhibition**

A graduate from the biology department of Peking University in the late 1980s, Peng Rong is fascinated with landscape photography. In his pictures, there always appears to be a combination of landscape with a kind of metal bio-simulation.

Where: Me Photo Art Gallery, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 10, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9504

Thu, Oct. 20

**Movie****Battle Royale (2000)**

Directed by Kinji Fukasaku, this Japanese film is about a randomly selected 9th grade class that is deposited on a deserted island, where they are equipped with weapons and forced to kill each other until only one survivor remains.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxituan, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 8229 6153

(By He Jianwei)

